

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use by a first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) which first node maintains a table of other nodes within the network which can be used for forwarding messages within the network, said method comprising:

receiving a first signal from a second node,

analyzing the first signal to determine its signal-to-noise ratio (SNR),

determining if the second node is a member of a good neighbor group of nodes having met a predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) requirement and is already listed in the table maintained by the first node,

if the second node is a member of the good neighbor group of nodes already listed in the table maintained by the first node,

comparing the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal to a first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold,

if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal exceeds the first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold, maintaining the second node in the table as a member of the good neighbor group of nodes, and

if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal does not exceed the first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold, discarding the first signal, and

if the second node is not a member of the good neighbor group of nodes already listed in the table maintained by the first node,

comparing the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal to a second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold greater than the first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold,

if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal exceeds the second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold, adding the second node to the table so that the second node is included as a new member in the good neighbor group of nodes, and

if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first signal does not exceed the second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold, discarding the first signal and continuing to not list the second node in the table,

wherein said method is applied in an AODV or DSR system.

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, applied in a system that complies with an IEEE 802.11 standard.

4. (Currently Amended) A first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) configured to:

maintain a table of other nodes within the network that are members of a good neighbor group of nodes having met a predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) requirement and which can be used for forwarding messages within the network,

receive a first signal from a second node,

analyze the first signal to determine its signal-to-noise ratio (SNR),

compare the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) to a first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold if the second node is a member of the good neighbor group of nodes and already listed in the table maintained by the first node and maintain the second node in the table

in the good neighbor group of nodes if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) exceeds the first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold, and

compare the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) to a second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold if the second node is not listed in the table and add the second node to the table if the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) exceeds the second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold so that the second node is included as a new member in the good neighbor group of nodes,

wherein the second predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold is greater than the first predetermined signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) threshold,

wherein said node is configured to be applied in an AODV or DSR system.

5. Canceled.

6. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 4, applied in a system that complies with an IEEE 802.11 standard.

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.